

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 OES-02
PM-03 INR-05 CIAE-00 ACDA-10 /050 W
-----141708Z 064463 /46
R 141547Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0250
ERDA WASHDC
ERDA GERMANTOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 06073

LIMDIS

NOFORN

USEEC

ERDA PASS TO N. SIEVERING, AIA

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: TECH, ENRG
SUBJ: EC PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL
CYCLE EVALUATION PROGRAM (INFCEP)

REF: (A) STATE 122509, (B) BRUSSELS 5585

1. AS PROMISED TO AMBASSADOR DURING THEIR CONVERSATION
JUNE 2, COMMISSIONER BRUNNER'S OFFICE DELIVERED ON JUNE 10
COPY OF EC COMMISSION CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM TO THE
COUNCIL REGARDING THE COMMUNITY'S POSITION ON INFCEP.
COPY WAS FURNISHED ON CONDITION THAT KNOWLEDGE THAT WE
HAVE IT IS TO BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL AND NOT BE
DIVULGED TO MEMBER STATES. COPY OF MEMO BEING POUCHED
TO NYE, HOYLE, ALBRECHT, AND SIEVERING (ERDA).

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2. COMMISSION INTRODUCES PAPER BY AFFIRMING TWO PRINCIPLES
UPON WHICH IT SEES EC PARTICIPATION IN INFCEP AS BASED:
(A) "COMMUNITY SHARES TO LARGE EXTENT THE CONCERNS UNDER-
LYING THE NEW US POLICY AIMING AT A DECISIVE EFFORT
TO AVOID THE DIVERSION OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS TO
UNAUTHORIZED USES;"
(B) "BUT THE COMMUNITY'S ENERGY SITUATION IS MUCH LESS

FAVORABLE THAT THAT OF THE US, AND THE COMMUNITY THEREFORE DOES NOT ENJOY SO MUCH FLEXIBILITY IN ITS CHOICE OF WAYS AND MEANS TO ACHIEVE ITS ENERGY OBJECTIVES."

3. COMMISSION, NOT SURPRISINGLY, COMES OUT STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN INFCEP. THE MEMO REVIEWS THE SUBITEMS OF PARAGRAPH G, REFTEL (A), IDENTIFYING THOSE THAT ARE WITHIN COMMUNITY COMPETENCE OR OF INTEREST TO THE COMMUNITY.

4. AFTER NOTING AND ENDORSING US CONCERN FOR "OPENNESS AND FLEXIBILITY" IN CONDUCTING STUDY, THE MEMO GOES ON TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN FUEL AVAILABILITY STUDIES, RADWASTE MANAGEMENT, ALTERNATIVE REACTOR AND FUEL CYCLE CONCEPTS (BUT ONLY TO HAVE "OPPORTUNITY OF MAKING SURE THAT THE MERITS OF THE REACTOR CONCEPTS ADOPTED IN THE COMMUNITY ARE RECOGNIZED"), ADVANCED REACTORS (BUT ONLY FOR SODIUM COOLED FAST BREEDERS, FUSION REACTORS, HIGH TEMPERATURE REACTORS, AND GAS COOLED BREEDER REACTORS) AND REPROCESSING.

5. THE MEMO DOES NOT MENTION THE TOPICS OF MINING TECHNIQUES, ENRICHMENT REQUIREMENTS AND PLANNED CAPACITY, INTERNATIONAL SPENT FUEL REPOSITORIES, OR LONG TERM RETRIEVABLE STORAGE. IT IDENTIFIES HEAVY WATER STUDY AS NOT BEING OF INTEREST TO THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. IT ALSO OPINES THAT TECHNIQUES TO INCREASE ONCE-THROUGH URANIUM UTILIZATION COULD PROVE COSTLY AND THAT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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RESULTS MIGHT BE OF ONLY MARGINAL IMPORTANCE.

6. IN DESCRIBING ITS GENERAL APPROACH TO INFCEP, THE COMMISSION EMPHASIZES THE NECESSITY FOR EUROPE TO CONTINUE WITH DEVELOPMENT OF REPROCESSING AND FAST BREEDERS. IN SUPPORT OF THIS POSITION, THE MEMO NOTES THE EURATOM SAFEGUARDS SYSTEM, THE LIMITED ENERGY RESOURCES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, "THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD THE CURRENT DEPENDENCE ON THE OUTSIDE WORLD IN FIELD OF NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLY," AND THE LEAD NOW ENJOYED BY EUROPE OVER THE U.S. IN REPROCESSING AND FAST REACTOR TECHNOLOGY. IT ALSO NOTES THAT THE USSR "RECENTLY CONFIRMED THAT IT IS CONTINUING ITS R&D PROGRAMS ON REPROCESSING AND FAST BREEDERS" AND THAT, THEREFORE, THE COMMUNITY "HAS ALL THE MORE REASON NOT TO ABANDON OR INTERRUPT ITS OWN PROGRAMS." THE PURPOSE OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN INFCEP IS GIVEN AS: (1) TO GET ITS POINT OF VIEW ACROSS; (2) TO ENSURE THAT THE PROGRAM TAKES "INTO ACCOUNT SPECIFICALLY EUROPEAN DATA ; AND (3)

TO BE ABLE "TO EVALUATE FROM THE INSIDE THE REAL
SCIENTIFIC VALUE OF THE ALTERNATIVES THAT WOULD BE
PROPOSED WHEN THE INFCEP WORK IS CONCLUDED."

7. THE MEMO PROPOSES THAT A SINGLE DELEGATION REPRESENT
THE COMMUNITY ON THE INFCEP STEERING COMMITTEE. MEMBER
STATES WOULD BE PERMITTED TO PRESENT THEIR POINTS OF VIEW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 06073

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EMS IN WHICH THE
COMMUNITY IS NOT DIRECTLY CONCERNED.

8. THE COMMISSION BELIEVES IT WOULD BE COMPETENT TO
"APPLY FOR THE PART OF PILOT ORGANIZATION" (LEAD COUNTRY)
FOR RADWASTE MANAGEMENT, FUSION AND LONG-TERM SUPPLY OF
NUCLEAR FUEL.

9. COMMENT: MISSION LEAVES TO WASHINGTON DECISION
AS TO WHETHER TO REPEAT CONTENTS OF THIS MESSAGE TO OTHER
INTERESTED POSTS. WE AGREE WITH BRUNNER THAT KNOWLEDGE
BY MEMBER COUNTRIES OF U.S. POSSESSION OF THIS MEMORANDUM
DURING THE DIFFICULT AND SENSITIVE INTERNAL COMMUNITY
DISCUSSIONS THAT WILL ENSUE COULD BE VERY DAMAGING TO THE
PROSPECT OF GETTING MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF THE

EC IN THE INFCEP.HINTON

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